microcomputers and the application servers." Column 2, lines 24-29. The client maintains a connection with the Gateway: "During a typical logon session a client-user will maintain a communications link with a single Gateway, but may access multiple services." Column 7, lines 64-67. The Gateway server selects an application server to respond to each type of service request: "Each time the user opens a service, the Gateway that is handling the logon session accesses a locally-stored service map to select a server that is allocated to the particular service, and then establishes a service instance channel with the selected server." Column 8, lines 6-10. The Gateway is an intermediary for all service requests: "The service instance channel is maintained throughout the service session, and is used to pass messages between the Gateway and the server as the client and server portions of the service application interact." Column 8, lines 14-17.

Choquier does not contemplate provision of web services, although many services are described: "Typical services include, for example, a mail service ... a bulletin board system (BBS) service ... a chat service ... an interactive games service ... various news services ... a mediaview service ... and a directory service..." Column 6, lines 1-13.

In Choquier, hot redirection from one application server to another is initiated by the Gateway computer. This is described at column 17, lines 40-62:

> In the preferred embodiment, a "hot redirection" technique is used to transfer service sessions. The hot redirection technique works as follows. Initially, the Gateway 126 that is handling the logon session submits a serialization request to the server 120 that is handling the service session. The server 120 responds to the serialization request by returning an object that describes the internal state of the service session. This object is in the form of a byte stream which is normally meaningful only to a specific service. By way of example, the object for the hot redirection of a CHAT service session would normally indicate the conference name, the user name, the status of the user (e.g., a spectator, moderator, etc.), and the message number of the last CHAT message sent to the user in the CHAT conference. While the server is responding to the serialization request, the Gateway 126 buffers any service requests that are received from the client microcomputer 102. The Gateway 126 then forwards the internal state information and the buffered service requests (if any) to a new server 120 (using the load balancing procedure of FIG. 6 to select a new server), and the new server resumes processing of service requests where the former server left off.

Thus, the Gateway "buffers any service requests" from the client during transition, and then forwards those requests to a new application server.

<p align="center">Claims 1, 15, and 20</p>

Independent claims 1, 15, and 20 recite, in part, "...such that the browser requests the web page from the another one of the web servers..." Choquier fails to teach or suggest these claim elements. In Choquier, the "hot redirection" is performed in response to a serialization request received from a Gateway computer. The Gateway computer, which resides between the client-user and the application server, communicates with each of the client-user and the application server, and it is the Gateway that requests redirection, not the client-user. Before, during, and after redirection, communication between the client-user and the same Gateway computer is maintained. After redirection, the client-user communicates with the same Gateway computer, and the Gateway computer communicates with a new application server. The Choquier client does not request anything from another server.

Choquier fails to teach or suggest a browser, and, as acknowledged in the Office Action, Choquier does not disclose a web server. The claim elements "browser" and "web server" are therefore absent from Choquier.

The Office Action states, at page 3, that "[t]he utilization of web servers would have been obvious if it is not inherent to Choquier's system." Applicants respectfully disagree that utilization of web servers would have been obvious. Web servers are a different technology than any of the disclosed application servers. It is not obvious from Choquier that there would be any benefit or motivation to use Choquier with web servers. In any event, even if the Choquier application servers were web servers and the Choquier clients were browsers (which they are not), as described above, such a combination still would not result in the claimed system, because the Choquier client does not request anything from another server. Applicants' claimed invention therefore is not obvious over Choquier.

As such, Choquier fails to teach or suggest each and every element of Applicants' independent claims 1, 15, and 20, and those claims that depend directly or indirectly from them.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 6-16, and 20 and the objection of claim 25, and that the claims be allowed in due course. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorney would be helpful, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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